Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE NEW REGULATIONS FOR THE
DEGREE IN MEDICINE OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to an article on the Revised Curriculum for the Degree in Medicine at the University of London which appeared in your columns on August 8th and which contains the following sentence: "The new regulations at the University will not, we understand, come into force for a year." As this sentence taken by itself may lead to some misapprehension, I beg to draw the attention of your readers to the following important announcement made in the Regulations, viz. :—

* *Note.*—The Preliminary Scientific Examinations, Parts I. and II., and the Intermediate Examination in Medicine will be held for the last time under Old Regulations in January, 1909.

The First Examination for Medical Degrees and the Second Examination for Medical Degrees, Parts I. and II., under Revised Regulations, will be held for the first time in July, 1909.

Students preparing for the medical examinations to be held in July, 1909, should therefore acquaint themselves without delay with the new curriculum.

I beg also to draw your attention to the fact that in order not to inflict hardship by bringing into force without due notice the important change affecting the length of the medical course on which you comment, the Senate have provided that certain exemptions shall be granted to students who have passed the Preliminary Scientific Examination, Part I., or the First Examination for Medical Degrees, in or before July, 1910. (See Regulations for Internal Students, Appendix, p. v., and Regulations for External Students, Appendix, p. iv.)—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ARTHUR W. RÜCKER, Principal.

University of London, South Kensington, S.W., August 25th, 1908.

ALBINISM IN MAN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The monograph on albinism in man for which you allowed us to appeal for material in your columns some four years ago, and in the preparation of which we have since been joined by Mr. C. H. Usher of Aberdeen, is now passing through the press. Through the generous assistance of many medical men in various parts of the world we have obtained pedigrees which, with already published cases, cover nearly 500 albinotic stocks and contain between three and four thousand albinos. We have also nearly a hundred photographs of albinos of various races. We shall, however, be very grateful to any of your readers who can, without much delay, send us additional cases. Whilst all data will be welcomed, there are several countries from which information is especially desired, and we shall be thankful to any foreign medical journals that will kindly copy this request. (a) Spain—total absence of information; wanted references to literature and pedigrees of albinos. (b) Germany—more material required or references to recently recorded cases, especially in North and North-western Germany. (c) European Russia and Asian Siberia—material hitherto very sparse. Is there any recent information about the "Spotted Tartars"? (d) China and S.E. Asia—material scanty. (e) American Indians—only published cases are known to us; any new material will be most welcome. (f) Natives of Australia and New Zealand—not many cases as yet, we should be very glad of more. In all pedigrees as many relatives as possible should be included, in addition to the parents and brethren of the albino; the albinos, perfect or partial, should be described individually. In photographs, especially of natives, a normal individual should be taken side by side with the albino; there should be a strong light and a dark background. Lastly, we shall be glad of any information on the following points:—(a) Congenital partial albinism, piebald skin dating from birth and stationary; (b) leucoderma that has become stationary; (c) leucoderma, whether stationary or progressive,

affecting several members of the same family, ascendants, or collaterals; several such cases are known but further instances are much needed; (d) loss of eye-pigment or any eye trouble associated with leucoderma; (e) association of any form of leucosis with Addison's disease (Levi gives a number of such cases); (f) pigmented sarcoma occurring in albinos. Material sent to either of us, as below, will be duly acknowledged under the sender's name in our memoir.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

KARL PEARSON

(Biometric Laboratory, University College, London, W.C.),

E. NETTLESHIP

August 22nd, 1908.

(Hindhead, Haslemere, Surrey).

THE SALARY OF MEDICAL INSPECTORS
OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—I shall be obliged if you will grant me the hospitality of your columns in order that the subjoined facts may be made known as widely as possible. The county borough council of this town are about to advertise for applications for the post of medical inspector of elementary school children at the salary of £200 per annum for whole-time services, no provision being made for increase of salary after a period of one or more years. As the town has a population of about 90,000 and has 15,000 children regularly attending school—the admissions and discharges averaging 2000 yearly—the members of the profession here consider the salary offered to be inadequate and incompatible with the performance of the duties in the most efficient manner, and hope that members of the medical profession who might think of applying for the post will consider carefully whether it is in the interests of the medical body as a whole that such small salaries should be accepted.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Wigan, August 27th, 1908.

A. E. HODDER.

A COMBINATION OF ABNORMALITIES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—This report of a post-mortem examination will, I think, be interesting to your readers. I was assisted by Dr. W. A. Milne and Mr. J. B. Conner. The man was found dead on the premises of some large engineering works, and as no one saw him fall or receive any injury, a doubt was raised as to the cause of death. He was working on a stage about two feet from the ground. His companion, who had his back to him, not getting the assistance he expected, turned to see why this was so, and was astonished to see the deceased lying "huddled up" on the ground. He was found to be dead. The relations claimed that the deceased had been killed in the course of his work, and as I could not find externally the cause of death a post-mortem examination was held. The peculiar combination of abnormalities found warrants putting the results on record. Besides having a complete transposition of all his organs the man had marked brain and heart abnormalities.

REPORT OF POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION.

External appearances.—The body is that of a well-nourished adult male. Post-mortem rigidity was well marked and there was extensive post-mortem lividity. There were small abrasions on the right eyelid, right ear, and over the occiput. There was no wound through the skin on any part of the body. No fracture of a bone was found.

Internal appearances.—On opening the chest and abdomen we found that all the organs in both cavities were transposed. The liver, kidneys, spleen, pancreas, stomach, and intestines were healthy. The lungs were also healthy, the left having three lobes and the right two.

Heart.—The heart was lying with the apex to the right side. The pulmonary, aortic, and tricuspid valves were healthy. The mitral valve was malformed. One cusp was large and greatly thickened all along its free or lower border; the other cusp measured only one-quarter of an inch from insertion to free edge and was also rather thick. The left auricle was enlarged and the left ventricle was hypertrophied.

Head.—The skull was of a peculiar shape, being small in the frontal region and very large in the posterior part, not unlike a large pear. On removal of the skull cap no lesion was found on the brain externally. While removing the brain a large quantity of straw-coloured serous fluid poured out to the amount of ten ounces or so. When removed and examined the brain showed marked abnormalities. Both lateral ventricles were greatly enlarged, being 6½ inches long and 2 to 2½ inches in the other diameters. The brain substance was very thin in all parts; in no part was it more than one inch thick.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Greenock, N.B.

EDW. MACKAY, M.B., C.M. Glasg.